

tion. It proved impossible; and, when the break had to come, I had to stand by the reformers as against the sordid apostles of self-interest. (But the reformers showed enough that was mean and base in addition to enough that was foolish themselves! What happened afterwards you know.)

"It may be that after I left the Presidency I ought not to have tried to take any part in politics at all. But all the men of the highest type made the strongest kind of appeal to me not to desert them. There was no use of my talking about virtue in the abstract, unless I applied it to concrete cases; and I either had to do just as I did or else completely abandon all effort to say anything on any public question whatsoever. Perhaps I ought to have done this; but, if I had done so, it is quite possible that I should now be feeling that I had a little shirked my duty.

"Well, as things are now, I am entirely out of touch with the American people. I abhor Wilson and Bryan; their attitude in foreign affairs is the worst we have seen since the days of Buchanan; and there is always the chance that they will bring the country to real disaster and disgrace.

"There is just one element of relief to me in the smash that came to the Progressive party. We did not have many practical men with us. Under such circumstances the reformers tended to go into sheer lunacy. I now can preach the doctrines of labor and capital just as I did when I was President, without being hampered by the well-meant ex-

travagances of so many among my
Progressive friends."

A conspicuous example of his habitual
strong common
sense on questions of mistaken religious zeal
is furnished
in a letter to Michael Schaap, on Feb. 22, 1915:

"I see you appeared against the bill making
compulsory
the reading of the Bible in the Public Schools.
If I were in
the Legislature or Governor, I should vote
against or veto
that bill, because I believe in absolutely non-
sectarian
public schools. It is not our business to have
the Protestant
Bible or the Catholic Vulgate or the Talmud
read in those